In the Claims:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c) and the revised amendment practice effective July 30, 2003, please cancel claims 10, 11, 22 and 23, amend claims 1, 2, 9, 16, 20 and 21 and add new claim 24, as indicated herein. A complete listing of all claims in the application is provided immediately below.

COMPLETE LISTING OF ALL CLAIMS IN THE APPLICATION

1. (currently amended) A guide block assembly for aligning and retaining at least one fiber bore forming pin and at least one guide pin bore forming pin during a molding of a ferrule, said assembly comprises a unitary member defining at least one fiber bore and at least one guide pin bore, said unitary member comprising a front face defining a non-rectilinear surface for forming a corresponding non-rectilinear surface on an end face of the ferrule ~~wherein said at least one fiber bore is created by an electric discharge machining (EDM) wire~~.

2. (currently amended) The guide block assembly of claim 1, wherein said at least one fiber bore is created by an electric discharge machining (EDM) wire and wherein said fiber bore is formed by creating a starter hole with the EDM wire and enlarging said starter hole.

3. (original) The guide block assembly of claim 2, wherein the starter hole is enlarged by a second EDM wire.

4. (original) The guide block assembly of claim 2, wherein the EDM wire is connected to an EDM machine at one end.

5. (original) The guide block assembly of claim 3, wherein the second EDM wire is connected to an EDM machine at both ends.

6. (original) The guide block assembly as set forth in claim 1, wherein the at least one fiber bore having a length and a diameter and wherein a ratio between the length of the at least one fiber bore to its diameter is approximately 3::1 to 10::1.

7. (original) The guide block assembly as set forth in claim 6, wherein the ratio between the length of the at least one fiber bore to its diameter is approximately 4::1 to 8::1.

8. (original) The guide block assembly as set forth in claim 7, wherein the ratio between the length of the at least one fiber bore to its diameter is approximately 6::1

9. (currently amended) The guide block assembly as set forth in claim 1, further defining an open cavity ~~behind~~ opposite the front face and in communication with the at least one fiber bore.

Claims 10-15 (canceled).

16. (currently amended) A guide block assembly for aligning and retaining at least one fiber bore forming pin and at least one guide pin bore forming pin during a molding of a ferrule, said assembly comprises a unitary member defining at least one fiber bore and at least one guide pin bore, wherein the at least one fiber bore is spaced apart from the at least one guide pin bore and spaced apart from edges of the unitary member, said unitary member comprising a front face defining a non-rectilinear surface for forming a corresponding non-rectilinear surface on an end face of the ferrule.

17. (original) The guide block assembly as set forth in claim 16, wherein the at least one fiber bore was connected to an adjacent fiber bore by a path during the manufacturing process and wherein the path is filled thereafter to form spaced apart fiber bores.

18. (original) The guide block assembly as set forth in claim 16, wherein the at least one fiber bore has a length and diameter and wherein a ratio between the length of the at least one

fiber bore to its diameter is approximately 3::1 to 10::1.

19. (original) The guide block assembly as set forth in claim 18, wherein the ratio between the length of the at least one fiber bore to its diameter is approximately 4::1 to 8::1.

20. (currently amended) The guide block assembly as set forth in claim 19, wherein the ratio between the length of the at least one fiber bore to its diameter is approximately 6::1.

21. (currently amended) The guide block assembly as set forth in claim 16, further defining an open cavity ~~behind~~ opposite the front face and in communication with the at least one fiber bore.

22. (canceled).

23. (canceled).

24. (new) A guide block assembly for aligning and retaining at least one fiber bore forming pin and at least one guide pin bore forming pin during a molding of a ferrule, said assembly comprising a unitary member having at least one fiber bore formed therein that is created by an electric discharge machining (EDM) wire and at least one guide pin bore formed therein, said unitary member comprising a front face defining a non-rectilinear surface, the fiber bore being formed perpendicular to the front face with sufficient precision that the non-rectilinear surface can be formed on the front face after the fiber bore is formed while maintaining the location of the fiber bore relative to the front face.